

- What is Sahiyo? -

Sahiyo is a transnational collective that works to **end Female Genital Cutting (FGC)** in Asian communities worldwide. Our mission is to empower communities to engage in conversations about the practice and create positive social change through dialogue, education and collaboration based on community involvement.

Sahiyo is the Bohra Gujarati word for 'saheliyo', or friends, and reflects the collective's mission to engage in dialogue with communities and amongst friends about Female Genital Cutting, a practice officially recognized by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund as a human rights violation.

The collective has received international recognition for its community-based and dialogue-driven approach in addressing FGC.



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sahiyo
United Against Female Genital Cutting



- Aims and Objectives -



To bring an end to the practice of Female Genital Cutting



To enable a culture in which a woman/girl's body and female sexuality is not feared or suppressed but openly discussed and embraced as normal



To recognize and emphasize the values of consent and a child/woman's right over her own body

- Programs -

Sahiyo offers a variety of resources and programs to spread awareness about Female Genital Cutting and also provides an outlet for those affected to share their stories.

STORYTELLING

Sahiyo understands the power of connecting people through the sharing of experiences. Storytelling is an important medium for allowing people affected by FGC to share their own narratives in their own words. The Sahiyo blog collects and distributes submissions and gives a voice to those looking to express it. To read these personal stories, visit the 'Stories and Narratives' section on www.sahiyo.com. Sahiyo expands its storytelling approaches through photo, video, print, and in-person gatherings.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteer support is the backbone of the collective, and Sahiyo thrives on the passion and dedication of its volunteers. One Sahiyo volunteer says:

"Working with an organization teaches one a lot about group involvement, support, and unity. Being involved with an organization that fights for a cause that is very personal for me, is like having a platform for your voice. Sahiyo has given me the gentle push and reminder to keep fighting for my cause, whether or not I see results immediately."

—Lubaina Plumber

To volunteer with Sahiyo, visit the 'Volunteer with Us' section on www.sahiyo.com and fill out the application form.



THAAL PE CHARCHA

Loosely translated as "discussions over food", Thaal Pe Charcha is a flagship Sahiyo program launched in 2017. At Thaal Pe Charcha events, Bohra women and men are brought together in a private, informal setting to bond over food and discuss issues that affect their lives, like FGC, in order to make the issue less taboo in their communities.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Sahiyo offers a variety of community presentations to educate the community on Female Genital Cutting and its consequences. Some topics include:

- Learning about FGC in the Dawoodi Bohra Community
- Female Genital Cutting and Social Change
- Incorporating Storytelling into Gender-Based Violence Work
- Sensitively Reporting on Female Genital Cutting

In addition to presentations, Sahiyo organizes community outreach campaigns like **"Each One Reach One"** or **"I am Bohra"**. Our campaigns help encourage community participation in speaking out about FGC.

For more information on campaigns or to request a presentation, contact info@sahiyo.com.

RESEARCH

Sahiyo collects and conducts research to bring more understanding, awareness and advocacy on the topic of FGC within Asian communities. In 2017, Sahiyo released a report of a study that surveyed 385 Dawoodi Bohra women from around the world and reported that FGC had an **80% prevalence rate amongst the community**. In 2017, Sahiyo undertook a study to better understand how to support survivor activists in amplifying their own advocacy efforts to end FGC. In the same year, Sahiyo also investigated and revealed that FGC is also being practiced in parts of southern India's Kerala state. This countered the previous assumption that in India, FGC is practiced only by Bohras.